



THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW ORLEANS

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

September 25, 2006

Dr. Tom Coburn
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management,
Government Information and International Security
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Dr. Coburn:

This letter is intended to supplement my previous letter to you dated August 31, 2006. In the previous letter I addressed numbers 4 – 6 of your inquiry. This letter, along with the attached spreadsheet and report, should complete our response to your inquiry regarding the University of New Orleans appropriations.

Please remember that the University of New Orleans contacted Anna Shopen to respectfully request and was permitted an extension to provide the information to your office. The University of New Orleans is located near the breach of the London Avenue Canal and in one of the most severely affected areas damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Every building on UNO's lakefront campus sustained significant wind and water damage which resulted in the loss of documents and research materials. Although the university's main campus reopened on January 30, 2006, some buildings remained closed due to mold remediation. The University of New Orleans is still in the process of reconstructing records lost during the Hurricane but I feel that we have provided to you below and attached a very detailed response to your request.

Presently, the University of New Orleans conducts, on average, \$40-50 million a year in federally funded research, the vast majority of which is awarded via a competitive review process. We consider federally supported research critical to the future well being of the nation, region, and, in particular, the city and University of New Orleans.

As you may know, Louisiana is one of the 23 EPSCoR states. The EPSCoR program was created to assist states with the lowest amount of federal R&D funding to enhance R&D capabilities to compete for federal R&D grants. We greatly value this program at the University of New Orleans. We are proud of our research programs and commitment to solving problems of national, state, and local need. We also look forward to rebuilding our New Orleans community back to and better than its pre-Katrina standards. There is still a long road ahead of us but with the determined citizens of Louisiana and the help from the federal government, I know we will come back stronger than ever.

Please let me know if I can offer additional information about any of the responses provided below or in my previous letter dated to you on August 31, 2006. Thank you for allowing the University of New Orleans additional time to provide you this more detailed response to your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Timothy P. Ryan
Chancellor



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Response to Senator Coburn's Request for Information Compete & Final Submission 9/25/06

1. Please provide a list of all appropriations received by your institution from the year 2000 to present, and the amount of assistance received.

Please see attached report for detailed information.

2. Please provide a summary of the specific objectives or goals set to be achieved by any entity, program, project or service associated with an appropriation at your institution, and, for each appropriation, a list of accomplishments that can be attributed to the project, entity, program or service (e.g. Published peer reviewed research, etc., depending on the nature of the earmarks you institution has received).

Please see attached report for detailed information.

3. How does your institution set a measure for standards to achieve quality and outcomes for entities, programs, projects, or services receiving assistance through earmarks or appropriations?

The University of New Orleans evaluates each entity, program, project, etc. in a manner appropriate to the objectives and goals of that specific program. There is no universal measurement suitable for the diverse research made possible by the federal funds we receive. UNO researchers are always encouraged to engage in activities that would allow them to be more competitive for other competitive grants, rather than to rely on any earmarked funds. Principal Investigators are the primarily required persons to closely monitor the standards set prior to the initiation of each project. They are also required to ensure that the standards and outcomes are met. The monitoring of this process for all of our colleges within the University of New Orleans is conducted through our Office of Research.

4. Does your institution have a stated policy regarding congressional earmarks or appropriations (if so, please describe). Does your institution have a policy regarding partnering in research projects with other universities who may have a differing policy?

It is the policy of the University of New Orleans that any congressionally directed funding is intended to supplement, not substitute, competitive funding awards from federal agencies. As such, directed congressional funding is intended to allow the University to build capacity to vie for competitive funding in areas of strategic importance to the University.

The University of New Orleans does actively seek partners, including university and industry, for congressional directed projects based on the areas of technical merit and common expertise. The University considers all partners on a case by case basis utilizing a variety of factors.



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5. Has your institution considered hiring a lobbyist to assist your institution in attaining familiarity with the opportunities that may exist to obtain Federal funds for research – such as the earmarking process?

As a state institution, the University of New Orleans is prohibited from employing lobbyists for this purpose. The University of New Orleans Foundation, a private 501©3 organization, does, however, employ the lobbying firms of Adams and Reese and The Livingston Group, to assist in this process.

6. In conclusion, do you find congressionally earmarked funds to have contributed in a substantive way to your academic institution?

As indicated in response number 4, congressionally directed funding allows the University of New Orleans to build capacity to vie for competitive funding in areas of strategic importance to the University. Congressional directed funding is intended to seed those areas of competence and strategic importance of the University which will allow programs to secure funding from other sources. As such, congressionally directed funds have contributed in a substantial way to the academic and research mission of the University.

As a general rule, projects which have received funding for a period of three years should have established a basis for funding support through competitive grants, agency funding, private donors or partnerships with industry. As part of the university's vigorous process for consideration of congressionally directed funding, any proposal for a new center or program must have a demonstrated track record of actively seeking and securing other forms of funding. Proposals for new centers or programs must also submit a specific strategy to seek and obtain competitive funding if it is to be funded.



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Federally Funded Projects & Programs

From 2000 – 2005

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